



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
GOVERNOR DANIEL P. MALLOY

March 14, 2016

Sen. Eric Coleman
Rep. William Tong
Sen. John Kissell
Rep. Rosa Rebimbas
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Joint Testimony from Governor Daniel P. Malloy and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman
in support of House Bill 5052 – An Act Strengthening Protections for Victims of Human
Trafficking

House Bill 5052 strengthens protections for victims of human trafficking and provides law enforcement better tools for investigating trafficking cases. Lt. Governor Wyman and I are proud to have proposed it and stand in strong support of the bill today.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers compel victims to engage in commercial sex acts or labor services against their will. It is not just an issue abroad; human trafficking is happening right here in Connecticut.

Since the state's human trafficking law was enacted in 2006, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has received more than 400 referrals of individuals with high-risk indicators for human trafficking. Over the last 8 years, DCF has experienced a steady increase in the number of referrals for youth at risk or confirmed victims of human trafficking—up to 133 referrals in 2015.

House Bill 5052 holds patrons of trafficked persons accountable by eliminating the requirement to prove more than one occurrence of sexual contact if the person trafficked is a minor under the age of 18. Furthermore, it makes patronizing a trafficked person an offense, if such person knew or reasonably should have known, that the other person was under the age of 18 and a victim of trafficking.

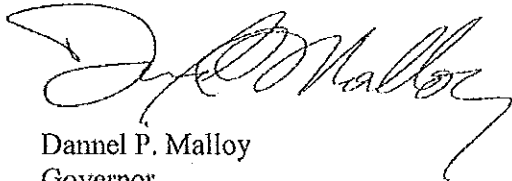
The bill also offers stronger protections for minors who are victims of trafficking. The proposal includes the trafficking of a minor under the age of 18 as an offense that allows the court to issue a standing criminal protective order requiring convicted traffickers to

stay away from victims. It also extends the time limitation for filing an application for compensation for victims of child sex trafficking, if the victim makes the application within two years of reaching age 18.

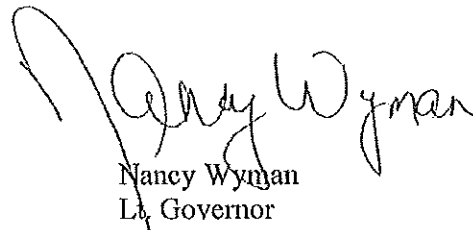
Finally, House Bill 5052 gives more tools to investigators. The proposal amends the enticing a minor statute to allow for a conviction if the person contacted is reasonably believed to be a minor under age 16. It also requires hotels, motels, or similar lodgings to maintain computerized records of all guests and transactions and keep those records for not less than six months.

This proposal builds on recent legislation enacted by the General Assembly to raise awareness and strengthen laws related to minor sex trafficking. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this vital legislation. We hope you will join us in working to ensure its final passage.

Sincerely,



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor



Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor